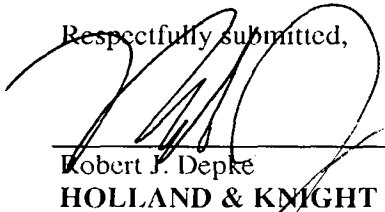


REMARKS:

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-8 of this application. Applicants have submitted concurrently herewith additional claims which Applicants submit are similarly allowable over the art of record for the same reasons the Examiner has set forth in the reasons accompanying the Notice of Allowability. In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request allowance of all claims in the application. Applicants also notes that the filing date reflected in the Examiner's action is apparently incorrect as it references the Japanese priority date and not the United States filing date.

Date: October 1, 2003

Respectfully submitted,


Robert J. Depke

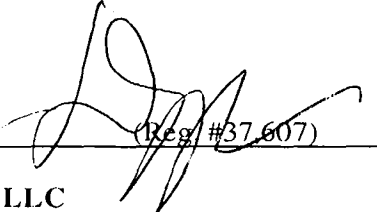
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